



For immediate release
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Contact: Jim Grebing 573-751-9065 or
Tammy Tucker 573-522-2724

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157
www.missouridevelopment.org

Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Albertson's Employees

JEFFERSON CITY -- The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to help workers that will be dislocated when the two Albertson's Grocery Stores in Joplin change ownership. About 137 employees will be affected by the change, however, many are expected to be hired by the new owners, Ramey/Price Cutter.

The stores are scheduled to re-open soon under Ramey/Price Cutter.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Southwest Workforce Development Board. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Albertson's employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Rapid Response team is an invaluable partnership providing free re-employment services and, in some cases, training toward a new skill for workers who have been dislocated," Driskill said. "The staff members at the Missouri Career Centers work very hard in helping these employees find new jobs."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education. These services are free of charge to the workers.

Representatives from DWD are working with the company to ensure that dislocated workers have access to Career Center services. Meetings will be held with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on April 18 at the Missouri Career Center at 730 S. Wall in Joplin.

Employers interested in hiring Albertson's workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or the Southwest Workforce Development Board at 417-629-3000.